



LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

June 2006

Issue No. 423

Thanks for Another Great RARSFest!

Article by Hank Montgomery K4HM, RARS Hamfest Chair

Thanks to you, RARSFest 2006, the 34th Annual RARSFest, is in the records as another success. You are the reason for that success. You are the reason our dealers and patrons enjoy RARSFest. You know that the secret is making sure that those attending the hamfest enjoy themselves. RARSFest is a credit to the RARS

membership that volunteers their time to help put on the hamfest. Without the support of the membership we couldn't have such a great hamfest. From the smiling face that sells the admission ticket, to the assistance given by those working security, to.....well to everyone who helps out with the work, everyone who pitched in should feel proud of the fruits of their labor.

YOU DID A GREAT JOB!

I wish I could personally thank every one of you who helped to make this year's fest another successful one. If you, the members, did not pitch in to help out, we could not possibly put on a show like RARSFest. I also need to say special thanks to the hamfest committee members who give of their time for 6 months to put everything together.

RARSFest didn't break any records, attendance dropped again as it has every year since 1996, but I didn't hear any complaints the whole weekend. We managed to cut expenses, and it looks like that allowed
(Continued on page 4)



Photo courtesy KN4AQ

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W8HYD

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in

times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed ama-

teurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS web site (RARS.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society and is available in both print and electronic formats. Club members receive the printed version in the mail prior to each club meeting. The PDF (electronic) version is posted on the RARS

website at www.rars.org. Members can also choose to have the PDF version emailed directly to them by contacting the treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

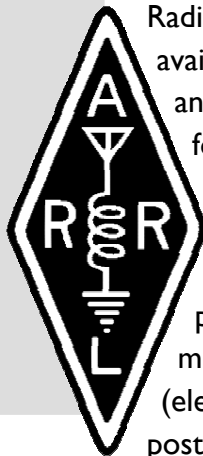
The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

Editor:

Courtney Enzor

KI4HOS

**courtney_enzor@
yahoo.com**



RARSFest Workers Unite

All RARSFest 2006 workers: please read this important message.

If you were a worker at the 2006 RARSFest, you should have recently received information regarding the RARSFest Worker Party. If you have not been contacted, please let me know. We need to know how many to plan for so PLEASE RSVP!

Please spread this information to all who worked for RARSFest 2006. We need to make sure every worker is contacted, but not everyone has email, and some may not have put their name on any worker lists — so spread the word to your fellow workers —

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm .
The meeting officially starts
at 7:30 pm.

especially those without email.

Ask them to contact me via email or phone for further information.

The 2006 RARSFest Worker Party will be held on June 17th at Harris Lake County Park located at 2112 County Park Drive, New Hill, NC 27562.

Again this year, RARSFest will provide the meat and drinks. We ask you to bring a covered dish to share. We plan to have the same activities as last year. There is also a fishing pier adjacent to the party location and a car-top boat launch within easy walking distance.

Thanks es 73,
K4HM — Hank
Email: K4hm@arrl.net
Phone: (919) 577-1254

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family — feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

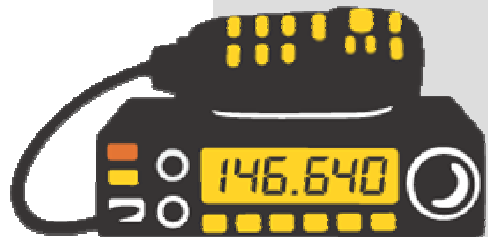
RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.



Thanks for Another Great RARSFest! (continued from page 1)

us to make a little profit, but that's not what hamfests are about.

Hamfests are mainly social events. They provide a venue where hams can come together to have an "eyeball QSO" with the OM (or YL) they hear on the radio but have never met in person. They are a chance for old friends to get together and share their experiences. They provide an opportunity where hams sharing an interest in a specific facet of amateur radio (like SKY-WARN or traffic nets) can gather to discuss the organization and

activities relating to their shared interests.

Hamfests often provide an opportunity for us to talk to dealers about the newest equipment that was just advertised in our favorite magazine. We were fortunate enough to have two radio dealers at our RARSFest this year. Hamfests give you a chance to find a bargain price on a new or used radio, to sell that spare radio that has been in the closet the last few years, to buy or sell accessories, parts, books, or that old tube that is no longer available in stores. And hamfests provide an

opportunity to practice another age-old aspect of our avocation that is common among all hams - the art of bartering for that boat anchor someone just sat on a table.

RARSFest also provides an opportunity to get your first amateur radio license or to upgrade to a higher license class. And let's not forget that fabulous feeding frenzy that Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL organizes for us. This year we added a few new activities to RARSFest - a Fox Hunt, a Special Event Station, and an opportunity to get hands-on

experience by building an antenna. These events were added after our flyers were mailed so they didn't get a lot of publicity, but those who participated in these events enjoyed them and expressed the hope that we would continue them in the future.

If you have any suggestions for RARSfest 2007, or if you want to become more involved yourself - drop me an email at K4HM@arrl.net or give me a phone call at 577-1254.

Again - thanks to everyone for a great RARSfest 2006.



Photos courtesy KN4AQ

Welcome New RARS Members!

Randy	KI4OVA
Lester	KW8T
Charles	KI4PAB
John	KI4OPD
Ray	KC4JWK
Tim	N4IB
Don	N4TH

Hamfest Calendar

June 10	Winston-Salem, North Carolina
June 24-25	Field Day
July 1	Salisbury, North Carolina
July 15	Cary, North Carolina

Dates courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal.

*Date not yet confirmed.

April 2006 RARS Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net

Check-ins: 442

Traffic: 34/31

Minutes: 787

Sessions: 30

Special Interest Nets

Check-ins: 69

Minutes: 385

Sessions: 9

June Birthdays

Bob	K1RCB	6/1
Charles	KI4DCR	6/3
Dawn	DK4EVV	6/3
Gwen	KF4EUT	6/5
Shelby	NC4SH	6/6
Denyse	K4DAW	6/7
Kelly	AE4FG	6/8
Jon	KG4ZVT	6/8
Kurt	KI4NQX	6/8
Tim	W4TIM	6/9
Charles	NZ0I	6/11
Tim	WB4BAH	6/11
Nancy	KE4PPW	6/13
Jack	KF4EZT	6/17
Jose	KD4JWF	6/18
Bud	KG4IJQ	6/19
Wayne	KD4SLQ	6/19
Dick	W8HYD	6/20
William	W4AK	6/21
Bobbie	KD4ZVW	6/22
Marian	K1MRB	6/24
Kelly	KD4EWG	6/24
Eric	KG4CXW	6/30

President's Corner



RARS President
Dick Bitner
W8HYD

This has been a very busy April and May. There are several major events that loom on the club calendar for June that need to be addressed.

First I want everyone that is a RARS member to come to the June meeting. The program is very important since we are entering the storm season, and there are some issues that members need to consider that will be introduced at the meeting. This is not the proper venue to discuss them so you will need to attend.

Second there are several public service events scheduled where RARS members could be of assistance. Please check with Dick KD4ISC or with Bill Cole at Carolina Helping Hams. We are still looking

for members interested in working on the Public Service side of things. Most of these events are fun events and allow us to present amateur radio in a positive light. Let me know if you are interested in chairing or participating in a Public Service committee within the club.

Field Day is also a big event for June. This year we expect to do very well (score wise) and are putting a GOTA station into the mix. Invite your neighbors and civic groups you may also belong to visit the site. We will make it possible for non-licensed folks to get on the air, show what ham radio field operations are like, and perhaps make some new hams from the event. Cub and Boy Scout troops, Girl Scouts, school clubs, you name it are invited, so spread the word.

Summer traditionally drops off our attendance, so save the first Tuesday for club meeting. We will do our best to make the meeting interesting and informative.

With almost 400 members, let's try to get some of our non-attendees to come on out. Offer them a ride — cash is also appropriate, although not recommended. Let's see who we can get to show.

Finally, thanks to our new editor for the great edition of the Exciter last month. We are getting caught up with the operational side and expect to be back on a regular schedule very soon. As always, your input is encouraged and invited.

Don't forget the HF Challenge is in effect. I'm involved, but I won't take an award so get going on those contacts. Rules and check sheets are found on the RARS web.

73

See ya' at the meeting and at field day.

De W8HYD sk

The End of an Era

Article by Joe Squashic W4TTO

After more than 155 years during which it delivered millions of telegrams around the world, bringing news of births, deaths, weddings, wars and more, Western Union delivered its last telegram message on January 27, 2006, ending a means of communication that began before the U.S. Civil War. Western Union telegrams became a victim of technology. The company ended its telegram service quietly by laying off 30 workers who still operated the telegram business.

The telegram business plunged in recent years from a peak of 200 million telegrams in 1929 to only 20,000 in 2005. Technology caused the decline,

starting with the telephone, then the Internet, and finally e-mail, along with other forms of modern communications.

In its heyday, Western Union telegrams were an important part of person-to-person communications across America. A message could be dictated at one end of the country, sent over telegraph lines strung nationwide, and printed out and delivered to its destination before telephones and other means of communications were available. Western Union had a long a colorful history. In 1851, the company began as The New York and Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Co., which five years later became The Western Union Telegraph Co. In 1861, Western Union completed the construction of its first transcontinental telegraph

line, providing coast-to-coast communications during the Civil War. In 1871, the Western Union Money Transfer service was introduced, which allowed customers the ability to send money to distant locations through Western Union offices. This eventually became the company's primary business.

The company introduced the first singing telegrams in 1933, and in 1964 it unveiled a transcontinental microwave radio beam system. This microwave system replaced the need for poles and telegraph wires. Although Western Union remains in business as a financial services company, a form of communications that has lasted for a century and a half has faded away.

Visit the RARS website for up-to-the-minute announcements, current information, and special features at www.rars.org.

Board Meeting - April 2006

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on April 18, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board - Dick Bitner, W8HYD, Hank Montgomery, K4HM, Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, Greg Seamster KE4PAX. Committee Chairs and Others - Virginia Enzor NC4VA, Courtney Enzor KI4HOS, Rod Thomson KI4LSN, Steve Worley KB4HDQ.

President Dick Bitner called the meeting to order at approximately 7:40.

Officers' Reports

Treasury Report - Greg provided the Treasurer's report and stated that there are currently 281 members. He also mentioned that it is time to schedule the annual budget review to be presented at the June Board meeting,

Selene provided the Vice President's report. The May RARS meeting will be Field Day in Depth by Neal Fisher and RARS-Fest Recap by Hank Montgomery. The June meeting will be a SKYWARN Spotter Class provided by Meteorologist Jeff Orrock

Dick stated he has heard good comments on quality of meetings and good attendance.

Dick pointed out two new faces: Virginia Enzor, who has accepted the role of Education Coordinator and Courtney Enzor, who has accepted the role of Exciter Editor.

Committee Reports

Education - Virginia reported that a Technician class is going to be offered April 29 8:30-12:30, May 13: 830-12:30 and June 3 :30-3:00 with exam at 1pm. RARS is teaching the class with Cisco providing the site. Six people are signed up to take the class. Dick Bitner and Mike Murphy are the instructors. This is the last class with the current question pool. On July 1 the pool of questions change. At least eight manuals will be ordered for the class.

Exciter Editor - Courtney reported she had set up an email address for correspondence, rarseditor@gmail.com, which will be published on the website. Dick commented that the Exciter was a good place for members to express their interests in the hobby of amateur radio, and he also commented that there will be a committee for contributions.

Membership Services - Mary Jo - excused, no report

Public Information - Gary Pearce - excused, no report

FM Committee - Gary Pearce - excused, Gary had earlier provided an e-mail report which stated that the repeaters were operating normally. Gary is also helping with the special events station for the Hamfest (N4C). It was mentioned that someone expressed interested in the 220 repeater site and this site may be relinquished for another 220 repeater.

Net Manager - Mary - no report

Webmaster - Steve Worley reported that he is keeping the site updated and that there is a possibility of adding additional rars.org e-mail addresses for club officers. SPAM filtering has been updated on rtpnet.org and is working well. Greg mentioned that the payment to rtpnet.org for this year has apparently not been made yet. He also mentioned that the website may need an updated net schedule.

Hamfest - Hank Montgomery reported that there will be a FoxHunt at RARSFest, also Building J-Pole antennas. Supplies

Board Meeting - April 2006

that are left will be used for the Technician class. The worker's picnic will be at Harris Park on June 17. The worker's picnic is in place of the previous incentive prize. The post mortem meeting will be at the May RARS Dinner at Golden Corral. The online registration has already been shut down for RARSFest.

Field Day - Neal - no report

VE Team - Joe/Liz - no report, VE team will be at Hamfest for testing.

Public Service - no report

ARRL Liaison - Chuck Littlewood - excused, no report

W4DW/W4RNC Trustee - Jeff - no report

New Business

Virginia stated that the eight local congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has recently set up a shelter in Apex. The group is looking for a repeater to use for emergency communications and training. Virginia requested that RARS consider allowing use of 145.13 repeater for this purpose. It was mentioned that the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) was approved for use of that repeater so some coordination would be required. It was suggested that Dick, Gary, Virginia, and coordinators for CERT discuss coordination for use of this repeater.

Unfinished Business

Education Committee - Classes already scheduled as mentioned earlier in the meeting.

Discussion on Newsletter - Greg mentioned that Docusource does printing of Exciter. They are sent a PDF file a week to two weeks after the meeting date. There are paper mailings to about 210 members. Courtney has been provided a copy of Microsoft Publisher 2003 from Dick for use on the Exciter newsletter.

Thoughts on Budget - Greg provided a two page handout on the budget vs actual spending. This included existing income and expenses vs. what was budgeted. Proposal for next year will be a flat budget with an increase in interest income being the only change. The budget will be presented at the May board meeting for approval and presented to the membership in June. The request was made for the budget to be emailed to members before the Board meeting. Hank mentioned the RARSfest decline in attendance and income dropped about 8% per year over the past few years. Greg mentioned that most of the current account balance was originally due to money for moving a repeater.

Outbound QSL - No new information, Dick plans to contact Jeff

More New Business

Public Service Coordinator - Dick B. stated that the board needed to work with Dick Orander to find a Public Service Coordinator. The need for a Public Service Coordinator will be included in an article in the Exciter.

Dick mentioned that the Board needed one more active At Large board member. Rod was discussed as a possible candidate. Dick stated that the club tended to get people active and then burn them out and that we all needed to bring others along into leadership positions. Rod gave the example suggestion of having two assistants for some positions so that newpeople could be trained. Greg will get a list of members who expressed interest in public service.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00pm

Submitted by Steve Worley, acting Secretary for April

General Meeting - May 2006

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for May 2006

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on May 2, 2006 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

President Dick Bitner, W8HYD, called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

The following visitors were recognized and welcomed to the meeting: Louis Alexander K4BYN and Charles Morgan (call pending).

Dick Orander KD4ISC provided a public service update. Hams are needed to provide communications support for the Summer Special Olympics. The event will be held in the Raleigh area on June 2, 3 and 4. Six hams are needed each day to drive event officials to the various venues and provide communications. Contact Bill Cole KG4CXY at kg4cxy@hampublicservice.org for more information or to volunteer. Hams are also needed for the July 4th Firecracker bike event. Contact Dick KD4ISC (kd4isc@ar1.net) to coordinate or volunteer for this public service opportunity.

Dick W8HYD advised the Exciter was in the works and should be available in the near future.

The Treasurer's report was read by Dick W8HYD. RARS currently has 285 members.

Hank Montgomery K4HM provided a RARSfest summary. He reported that every table at the hamfest was sold and preliminary results appear to show we made a profit. A post mortem discussion will be held during next Tuesday's RARS dinner at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue at 6:30pm. Decreasing attendance and increasing facilities costs are forcing us to look for another location for RARSfest. Anyone with ideas or suggestions for a new hamfest location should contact Hank or any board member. All of the hamfest workers were thanked for their time and efforts. A worker's picnic will be held on June 17 at Harris Lake Park.

Neal Fisher N4HAF was given the floor to provide a presentation on this year's Field Day activities. RARS will be at the Carroll farm location again this year. Setup will begin on Friday, June 23 at 2pm. The event itself begins at 2pm on Saturday, June 24 and continues through Sunday, June 25. All are invited to participate. Neal ended his presentation with a video of a previous Field Day event.

Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ reminded the group of the RARS 10 meter net that will be held tomorrow night at 9pm on 28.364 MHz. The net will be conducted again on the following Saturday night after the Tech Net.

Door Prizes were won by Larry KG4FIQ and Dennis K4DAM.

Attendance - 33

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Dick Orander, KD4ISC
RARS Secretary

RARSFest 2006



Photos courtesy KN4AQ

Amateur Radio Nets



The RARS Technical & Trader's net is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

If you would like your net information included in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot.

Upcoming CCS Information nets include:

May 16 — "Challenges of Hail Prediction in North Carolina" with Brandon Vincent, General Forecaster with the Raleigh NWS. A PowerPoint will be available; please check out website for availability.

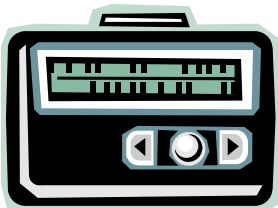
May 23 — National Hurricane Awareness Week. Program and speaker TBA.

Check us out at www.ccskywarn.net.



The VOIP Hurricane net is held Saturdays @ 7 pm on the 440 Carolina linking system. To view the list of linked repeaters, go to www.carolina440.net/repeaters_on_link.htm.

The NC VOIP for North Carolina net is also held on the 440 Carolina linking system on Sundays @ 7 pm.



Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) net** on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes 11 linked repeaters, spanning piedmont and eastern North Carolina. The net will also be connected to the Reflector 921 Channel 1 so other IRLP links can join in on the net.

These are the present frequencies and locations that you can use to access the net:

441.725+ (tone of 100.) Raleigh "Backbone Hub" repeater	
442.075+ (tone of 88.5) Leland	443.075+ (tone of 100.) Clinton
444.150+ (tone of 100.) Clayton	444.325+ (tone of 100.) Holly Springs
444.375+ (tone of 100.) Henderson	444.550+ (tone of 100.) Coats
444.775+ (tone of 100.) Cary	444.775+ (tone of 88.5) Castle Hayne
444.875+ (tone of 100.) Wendell	444.925+ (tone of 100.) Durham

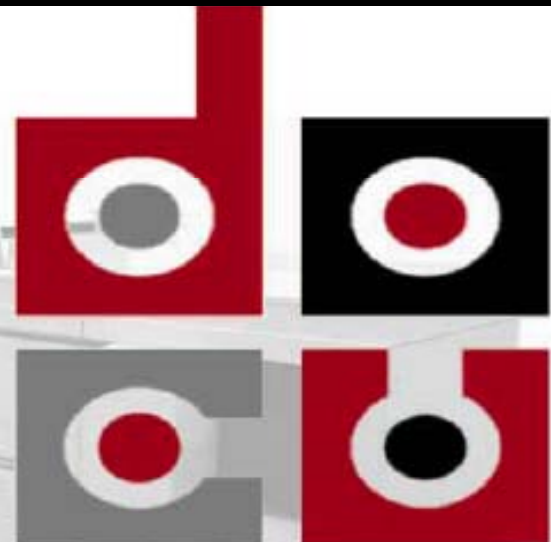


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The RARS

Exciter

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Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

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US POSTAGE PAID
RALEIGH, NC
PERMIT NO. 2130

Look Inside for the Scoop on RARSFest 2006!

**A special thanks to
everyone who helped
with RARSFest 2006.**

**We couldn't do it
without all the
wonderful members
who provided
manpower, expertise,
and enthusiasm.**



Photo courtesy KN4AQ